Assistance to Maharashtra under UIDSSMT

†3381. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra has sought assistance from the Central Government for basic infrastructure development Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns under (UIDSSMT);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when funds would be provided by Government for implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) of Maharashtra State in its properly held 4 meetings on 8.6.2006, 28.9.2006, 29.12.2006 and 4.5.2007 has recommended 62 projects of 47 towns with an approved cost of Rs. 2206.87 crore. Further, SLSC in its meeting held on 1.3.2008 recommended another 42 projects subject to technical clearance and cost confirmation by Central Public Health Environment and Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO), Ministry of Urban Development.

(c) Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance has provided Rs. 214.90 crore to the State of Maharashtra for the first three years of the Mission i.e. upto the period ending 2007-08. Till date, Rs. 219.49 crore has been released as first instalment of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for 26 projects in 19 towns as per priority of the State Government.

Remaining projects will be considered for release of ACA as per priority indicated by the State Government and subject to the availability of funds and technical clearance/cost confirmation by CPHEEO.

Auction of cricket players

†3382. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the auction of cricketers has raised or decreased the honour of the country;

(b) whether the transaction of the money is factual or imaginary; and

(c) the extent of interference of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (c) According to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the auction process was adopted to facilitate the franchisees to select their teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL). An open bidding process was adopted for this purpose resulting in an assured payment to the players, backed by a legally enforceable agreement between the players and franchisees. Such practices do prevail internationally. The BCCI is an autonomous body and the Government has no role in the launch and conduct of IPL, or its management processes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.